

November 2, 1987

Mr. Mike Arnold  
2569 West Roxbury  
Springfield, Missouri 65807

Dear Mr. Arnold:

This letter will confirm the conversation with Steve Short and Bob Corson on October 22, concerning the odor problem you and your neighbors are experiencing. While we were not able to measure the hydrogen sulfide in your sanitary sewer cleanout, we know from investigating several other odor complaints in your neighborhood and other areas in our system that are near lift stations and the termination of lift station force mains that hydrogen sulfide is present at times.

In review, it would appear the plumbing stack vents in your home are operating as designed, and as a result malodorous gases are escaping to the atmosphere. Most of the odor producing substances in domestic wastewater result from anaerobic decomposition of organic matter containing sulfur and nitrogen. Gases produced from domestic wastewater decomposition commonly include hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, carbon dioxide and methane. Of these gases, only hydrogen sulfide and ammonia are malodorous. Hydrogen Sulfide is the most commonly known and prevalent odorous gas associated with domestic wastewater collection systems and has a characteristic rotten egg odor.

During our October 21st phone conversation I mentioned some homeowners in other areas affected with odor problems have installed yard traps on their private building sewers, with positive results. These traps do require added maintenance. If you were to install such a trap, permission would need to be secured from the Greene County Building Regulations Department. It would be necessary to install a cleanout on the house side of the trap so that the trap could be regularly cleaned.

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If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call 864-1924.

Yours truly,



Stephen D. Short  
Water Pollution Control Inspector II  
Surveillance & Enforcement

SDS:js

ccs: Robert R. Schaefer, Supt. of Sanitary Services  
Henry Cole, Sanitary Engineer  
Randy Lyman, Surveillance, Enforcement & Sewer Billing Supervisor  
Jim Brees, Greene County Bldg. Dept., 833 Boonville  
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